

Robert Searcy, March 2, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

GENERAL ORDERS ON LEAVING FORT STROTHER.¹

1 Copy.

Fort Strother, March 2, 1814.

Genl. Order

In case of an attack in the night, each Infantry Regiment will form 25 paces within the line, in perfect silence, and continue their position, untill otherwise ordered. The Cavalry will form within the lines of encampment, as near the centre as practicable, and await the orders of the commanding General. The Artillery Company will form on its parade and await further orders. Should an attack be made in front while on the march the front Regiment of the centre column, will display to right and left on the centre. The Regiment of Infantry, forming the right column, will wheel on the left, and form alinement with the centre Regiment—the left column will wheel in like manner on the right and form alinement on the centre, and on its left flank—the rear Regiment of the centre column, will display column to the right and left, and move up as near the baggage waggons as possible, and remain in that position, untill otherwise directed. In case of an attack on the baggage and waggons, the commander will defend it, with all his force by placing his Regiment in the best situation that may present itself according to circumstances to accomplish the object. On an attack being commenced on the rear, the Regiment in the rear, will display to the right and left on the centre, and front the enemy, giving space to the Infantry in the same Columns to form in alinement, with the centre Regiment on its right and left. The front Regiment of the second column facing to the right about, and displaying to the right and

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left from the centre, will form the protecting force to the baggage and stores, in the same manner as the rear Regiment is directed to do, in case of an attack in front.

Should an attack be made on either flank column, the front and rear Regiment of the centre column will immediately wheel by the right and left as above directed, and form a line with the Regiment attacked, on its right and left flank. The Cavalry will give space for the regiment to pass, that forms that part of the column, they had previously occupied, and the flanking Regiment of Infantry, not so attacked, will form and protect the baggage and stores as before directed. The Cavalry will in every instance form, equally on the right and left flank of the alinement, about 60 yards to the right and left of each flank, and in line with the line of battle, and in that position use their utmost endeavours to turn the enemys flank, and attack in rear, and at all events prevent the enemy turning their own flank, and that of the Infantry.

The Artillery company will form, and move as ordered by the commanding Genl.

The Topographer will furnish each General of Brigade, and Colonel Williams, with a plan of encampment, and line of march agreeably to the foregoing order.

By Command Robt. Searcy Aid de Camp to the Commanding General.